REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending. Claim 30 has been added.

Applicants note that certain of the claims have been amended simply to improve clarity. Applicants believe that no new matter has been included in the specification or claims by the preceding amendments.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 14, 2001.

Margaret M. Kelton — Attorney for Applicant(s)

3/14/01 — Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment A

1. A method for distribution of storable content comprising:

distributing information content-mastered media including at least said storable content and a media identifier number, to a plurality of users including a first user, wherein at least some of said storable content is [said media] readable by at least a first media reader apparatus only in response to at least a first access code [an access code]; and

distributing a first permission code to said first media reader apparatus in exchange for a first payment, said media storing a first code related to said first permission code at a first time, said first permission code in combination with said first code providing said first access code and permitting at least a first access to said storable content.

[receiving, in said media reader, a first permission code obtained by said first user in exchange for a first payment;

storing a first code related to a first access code on said media, at a first time; and

providing at least first access to said storable content by providing said first access code to said first reader apparatus, using said first code].

2. (Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of distributing [receiving] comprises [receiving] distributing said first permission code via an Internet communications link.

3. (Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein [sais] said storable content includes content selected from among text content, music content, software and motion picture content.

4. (Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising [receiving] distributing to [, in] said media reader, a second permission code obtained by said first user at a second time, later than said first time, in exchange for a second payment[;] wherein said media stores a

[storing a] second code related to a second access code, the second permission code being on said media[;], said media permitting [providing] at least second

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access, different from said first access, to said storable content by providing said second access code to said reader apparatus, using said second code.

5. (Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising distributing [receiving, in] to said media reader, a second permission code requested by [obtained by] a second user, different from said first user at a second time, later than said first time, in exchange for a second payment[;] wherein said media stores

[storing] a second code related to a second access code on said media[; and] , wherein said second access code permits at least a second access to said storable content,

[providing at least second access,] different from said first access, [to said storable content] by providing said second access code to said reader apparatus, using said second code.

7. (Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of distributing information content-mastered media comprises unsolicited distributing of media.

8. (Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of distributing information content-mastered media comprises downloading said content to said media over a communications link.

15. (Amended) A method for distribution of storable content comprising:

receiving [providing] a plurality of information content-mastered media in a retail establishment, said information content-mastered media including at least said storable content and a media identifier number, said media readable by at least a first media reader apparatus only in response to an access code, wherein said retail establishment is accessible to a plurality of users including a first user;

storing, during a first time, at said retail location, a first code related to a first access code on said media in exchange for a first payment by said first user to said retail establishment; and

providing at least first access to said storable content by providing said first access code to said first reader apparatus, using said first code.

20. (Amended) A method for distribution of storable content [comprising:

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providing] on information content-mastered media, said media including at least first and second content and a media identifier number, the method comprising:

storing a first code related to a first access code on said media, at a first time, obtained in exchange for a first payment; [and]

providing access to said first content by providing said first access code to a reader apparatus, using said first code, wherein access to said second content is unavailable on the basis of said first code;

storing a second code related to a second access code on said media obtained at a second time, later than said first time, in exchange for a second payment; and

providing access to said second content by providing said second access code to a reader apparatus, using said second code.

30. (New) A computer program product for distributing storable content on information content-mastered media, said media including at least first and second content and a media identifier number, the computer program product comprising:

signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to

store a first code related to a first access code on said media, at a first time, obtained in exchange for a first payment;

provide access to said first content by providing said first access code to a reader apparatus, using said first code, wherein access to said second content is unavailable on the basis of said first code;

store a second code related to a second access code on said media obtained at a second time, later than said first time, in exchange for a second payment; and

provide access to said second content by providing said second access code to a reader apparatus, using said second code.

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Attachment B

In the following amendments to the Specification, insertions are underlined and bolded, and deletions are enclosed in brackets.

The paragraph starting on page 1, line 1 is amended as follows:

Cross reference is made to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/315,398 of Braitberg, et al., filed May 20, 1996 (Attorney File No. 4154-1), 60/140,633, filed 6/23/99 (Attorney File No. 4154-2), and Application Serial No. 09/393,150 (Attorney File No. 4154-4), entitled "WRITEABLE MEDIUM ACCESS CONTROL USING A MEDIUM WRITEABLE AREA" filed on even date herewith, all incorporated herein by reference.

The paragraph starting on page 2, line 19 is amended as follows:

Some systems for producing optical disks allow different disks to have different indicia. Some such systems provide for a step of selectively destroying pre-formatted regions. Such systems have a number of disadvantageous aspects. Systems which selectively destroy pre-formatted regions are inherently destructive and act to destroy, rather than creating recorded data. Such systems operate on pre-formatted regions, thus can not be formed by embossing (which typically occurs simultaneously with formatting). Such systems typically have a relatively coarse resolution, such as being unable to destroy only a single track, without destroying at least one adjacent track). Such systems [topically] **typically** rely on using a specialized device driver to read such a disk, and are typically infeasible for use in modem systems which use a SCSI driver an/or rely on an operating system (such as Windows 98, or the like), for disk read operations. Accordingly, it would be useful to provide a system which can provide disks that have not only information content-mastered data, but also individualizable, preferably unique, identifiers on each disk, using non-destructive track recording.

The paragraph starting on page 3, line 13 is amended as follows:

Some [system] **systems** involve a key, code or decryption algorithm which is stored in a player device or host computer in a manner which can make it feasible to obtain the code, key or algorithm, or to defeat the protection procedure, by analyzing or modifying the player or host computer, thus potentially gaining access to any disk used in such player or host

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computer. Accordingly, it would be useful to provide a system in which access to a player or host key or code will not suffice, by itself, to obtain access to multiple different disks.

The paragraph starting on page 7, line 14 is amended as follows:

As depicted in Fig. 2, typically a content owner 212, who may be, e.g., an author, composer, publisher, music or motion picture production company and the like, provides content 214 to a premastering facility 216. It is contemplated that typically the content 214 will be provided in unencrypted form, typically in digital form, although at least some features of the present invention can be used when content is provided in encrypted and/or in nondigital, e.g., analog, form. Although premastering 216 is depicted, in Fig. 2, as a separate unit from the content owner and the fabrication, it is possible for some or all units of production 112 to be provided by a single entity. Premastering 216 provides a number of items to [a] **an** injection molding or other fabrication facility 218. In some embodiments, production of content involves encrypting or otherwise modifying the content. In other embodiments, content may be protected by merely setting or clearing read permission flags for various content which are recognized and enforced by media readers. In other embodiments, content may be protected by selectively encrypting or modifying file information such as a file allocation table (FAT) and the like. In the depicted embodiment, the protected content 222 is passed to the fabrication facility 218. Preferably, media information is also provided 224 which may include information such as type of media (video [verses] **versus** text [verses] **versus** audio and the like) format (both data encoding format and sector and similar information, i.e., media formatting information) and/or user-intended information (titles, authors, composers, artists, lengths or sizes of content and the like). In some embodiments, partial content-enablement keys or codes may be provided 226. For example, in some embodiments, it is desired to provide access permissions which are based on three or

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more items, such as a combination of a media serial number, a partial access code 226 and/or a stored access code (e.g., in exchange for payment as described below). In some embodiments, it may be desired to positively control access to all content, such that all content is associated either with a code preventing access or with a code denying access. In these configurations, when there is some content which should be initially available to a user (such as instructions on how to use disk, instructions on how to make payments and/or obtain access, advertisements or the like) appropriate codes permitting access to such information may be included 226. In other embodiments, default systems may be used, e.g., such that access to particular contents is denied unless access permission codes are stored on the disk or systems in which access to contents is always permitted unless a code denying access is stored on the disk.

The paragraph starting on page 9, line 15 is amended as follows:

In the embodiment depicted in Fig. 5, after a first user 512 receives media (by any of the various distribution channels 114), the user 512 may make one or more copies, e.g., by copying onto a blank disk, which may be distributed to another user 514. The blank disk contains at least some writeable **portion.** In this way, some of the costs of copying, such as the cost of the blank disk, the time and facilities for making copies and the like, is borne by the user 512. In at least some configurations, the copy distributed to the second user 514 has at least some content which is not enabled, e.g., because the serial number stored on the second copy 232 will differ from the serial number on the source disk. Accordingly, the second user 514, in order to access the content, uses an enablement facility 118 to obtain appropriate access codes, preferably in exchange for payment, 516, e.g., as described more thoroughly below.

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